

Conrail Bridge
(Penn Central Bridge)
Spanning the Hackensack River
Kearny, New Jersey
Hudson County

HAER No. NJ-43

HAER
NJ
9-KEAR,
1-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

PHOTOGRAPHS

HAER
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CONRAIL BRIDGE
(Penn Central Bridge)
NJ-43

Date: ca. 1920

Location: Spanning the Hackensack River between Kearny and Secaucus,
New Jersey

Owner: Conrail

Engineer/Builder: Unknown

Significance: This structure is one of a series of bridges constructed in the early twentieth century to carry railroad lines through northern New Jersey towards New York City. It is a vertical lift bridge, built so that water borne commerce along the Hackensack River would not be impeded by the railroad line. Originally constructed for the Penn Central Railroad as part of its project for bringing rail traffic into Manhattan, it is now owned by Conrail. This is a good example of movable bridge technology developed by American engineers in the early twentieth century.

Transmitted by: Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1984